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Separate paging is given to this Part in order that it may be filed as a Separate Compilation.

PART IV-C

Statutory Rules and Orders (Other than those published in Parts I, I-A and I-L) made by Statutory Authorities other than the Government of Gujarat including those made by the Government of India, the High Courts, the Director of Municipalities, the Commissioner of Police, the Director of Prohibition and Excise, the District Magistrates and the Election Commission, Election Tribunals, Returning Officers and other authorities under the Election Commission.

BY THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD

NOTIFICATION

No.C.0305/2025

THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT

(DESIGNATION OF SENIOR ADVOCATES) RULES, 2025

In exercise of powers conferred by Article 227 of the Constitution of India read with Sections 34(1) and 16(2) of the Advocates Act, 1961 and in accordance with guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court of India in Judgment dated 13.05.2025 in Criminal Appeal No. 865 of 2025 in case of Jitender @ Kalla Vs. State (NCT of Delhi) and Anr., and in supersession of the previous rules, the High Court of Gujarat makes following rules for designation of an advocate as Senior Advocate and matters incidental thereto.

(1) Short title and commencement :

(i) These Rules shall be called “The High Court of Gujarat (Designation of Senior Advocates) Rules, 2025”.

(ii) These Rules shall extend throughout the territorial jurisdiction of the High Court of Gujarat.

(iii) These Rules shall come into force on and with effect from the date of their publication in the *Official Gazette*.

(2) Definitions :

(a) "Advocate Act" means the ‘Advocates Act, 1961’;

(b) "Advocates" means an Advocate who has been admitted to the rolls and continues to be on the rolls of the Bar Council of Gujarat constituted under Advocates Act, 1961;

(c) "High Court" means the High Court of Gujarat at Ahmedabad;

(d) "Chief Justice" means Chief Justice of High Court of Gujarat and includes a Judge appointed under the Constitution to perform the duties of Chief Justice;

(e) “Full Court” means meeting of all the Hon’ble Judges of High Court convened by the Hon’ble Chief Justice;

(f) “Secretariat” means the permanent Secretariat constituted by Hon’ble the Chief Justice;

(g) "Judge" means Judge of the High Court of Gujarat;

(h) "Registrar General" means Registrar General of the High Court of Gujarat;

(i) "Registry" means the Registry of the High Court of Gujarat;

(j) "Rules" means the Gujarat High Court Rules;

(k) "State" means the State of Gujarat;

(l) "State Bar Council" means the Bar Council of Gujarat and shall include the authority exercising such powers.

(3) Eligibility condition for designation of Senior Advocate :

(a) An advocate shall be eligible to be designated as Senior Advocate, if he/she :

(i) has minimum standing of 20 years at the Bar ordinarily practicing in the High Court of Gujarat at Ahmedabad and/or before District Judiciary/Specialized Tribunal, preceding the date of consideration of his/her case for designation as a Senior Advocate;

(ii) At the time of making application for designation of senior advocate, the age of the applicant shall not be less than 45 years.

(iii) possesses ability, legal acumen, special knowledge or distinction and reputation achieved in practice of law.

(iv) has participated in pro bono work;

(v) has not been convicted by a competent court of law and should not have been punished for an offence involving moral turpitude or contempt of court or should not have been punished by the Bar Council of Gujarat or by the Bar Council of India for any act of misconduct.

(4) Procedure :

(i) The process of designation of senior advocates shall be initiated at least once in a year.

(ii) There shall be a permanent secretariat for designation of senior advocate which shall be constituted by the Chief Justice.

(iii) In consultation with the Chief Justice, the secretariat shall initiate the process for designation of senior advocate.

(iv) The notice inviting application shall be published on the official website of the High Court and its information will also be given to the High Court Bar Association/District Court Bar Association/Tribunal Bar Association for wide publicity.

(v) Applicant will have to apply for designation in form as per Schedule – I along with relevant documents and submit the same to the designated person in the secretariat.

(vi) Desirous applicants will be granted two weeks time to make such applications which will be treated as their consent.

(vii) Every application for designation as senior advocate should be endorsed by two designated senior advocates having standing of not less than 10 years as a senior advocate of the Gujarat High Court.

(viii) The applicant practicing before the Hon'ble High Court is required to submit along with his/her application, 50 reported/unreported Judgments for the last five years wherein he/she has appeared as an advocate and has argued the case.

(ix) In case of applicant, whose place of practice is other than High Court of Gujarat, then information regarding his/her suitability can be called for, from the respective Principal Judicial Officer/President of Tribunal before whom such applicant practices.

(x) The Secretariat will publish the list of applications received by it on website of the High Court in order to invite suggestions/views of other stakeholders for the applicants.

(xi) The Applications which are found to be in order shall be placed before the Full Court which shall be decided by the consensus or voting.

(xii) In case of voting the decision shall be carried by majority of Judges present and voting. However, in case of a tie, the Chief Justice shall have casting/deciding vote.

(xiii) The decision of the Full Court shall be final and binding.

(xiv) The Full Court may, in deserving cases, confer designation Suo Moto, upon an Advocate fulfilling the eligibility criteria, after obtaining consent of the said Advocate.

(5) Undertaking :

(i) An advocate who has been designated as "Senior Advocate" shall furnish an undertaking that he/she:

(a) will abide by the rules regulating the practice of Senior Advocate;

(b) will not draft or file pleadings in any Court and shall in all cases be assisted by another Advocate;

(c) shall not directly give consultation to any litigant and accept brief from the client;

(d) shall not file Vakalatnama or memo of appearance in any Court of Tribunal; however, the assisting advocate shall file memo of intimation in the concerned Court intimating the appearance of Senior Advocate in the case so engaged; and

(e) shall neither appear for mentioning for any matters before the Court nor should he/she appear for getting adjournments;

(f) shall mentor and maintain minimum 2 to 3 young lawyers with less than 3 years of experience;

(g) Will not accept instructions to draft pleadings/affidavits, advise on evidence or do any drafting or work of analogous nature in any court or tribunal, or undertake any conveyancing work of any kind whatsoever. However, this prohibition shall not extend to settling any such matter as aforesaid in consultation with instructing advocate.

(h) Shall not be a standing counsel of Government, public sector undertaking, institution or local corporate body and if he/she holds such position, he/she shall resign or relinquish the same upon being designated as senior advocate.

(6) Registration as Senior Advocate :

(i) upon furnishing of an undertaking in a manner stated in rule-5, the name of advocate who has been designated as Senior Advocate, shall be entered in the register of Senior Advocates to be maintained by the Court. The order to this effect shall be issued conferring such distinction on advocate, by the Registrar General. The Advocate shall thereafter be addressed as "Senior Advocate" of the High Court;

(ii) upon an advocate being designated as Senior Advocate, the Registrar General shall communicate the same to the Supreme Court of India and all the High Courts and Bar Council of India, the State Bar Councils and Bar Association of the State. The Registrar General shall notify the same on the official website of High Court also.

(7) Review and Recall :

(a) If it is found that any Senior Advocate has -

(i) committed any professional misconduct;

(ii) shown intemperate or indecorous behaviour either inside or outside the Court or during the virtual hearing;

(iii) has been found invariably negligent in discharging his professional duties;

(iv) been found by Bar Council of India or Bar Council of Gujarat or Bar Council of any other State to have committed professional or other misconduct;

(v) been convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude or for contempt of the Court; and

(vi) for any other reason lost the privilege to be a Senior Advocate, for any one or more of the foregoing reasons.

(b) The name of such Senior Advocate will be placed before the Chief Justice for recalling the designation;

(c) On being satisfied that the matter should be further considered, the Chief Justice shall refer the issue to the Full Court;

(d) If majority of Judges present in the meeting are of the view that Senior Advocate has forfeited his/her privilege, the Full Court shall recall his/her designation as Senior Advocate; however, in case of a tie, the Chief Justice has a casting/deciding vote;

(e) The Registrar General shall notify the decision to the Advocate and to the Bar Council of Gujarat and other concerned who shall delete the name from the list of Senior Advocate maintained by them in their respective registers;

(f) nothing contained in these rules shall prevent an Advocate, who has been designated by the High Court of Gujarat as a Senior Advocate, from submitting an application to withdraw or recall his/her designation as a Senior Advocate; In the event of such an application addressed to the permanent secretariat being submitted, the permanent secretariat shall place it before the Full Court for appropriate orders thereon;

(g) The Registrar General shall notify the withdrawal of notification in official website of High Court while communicating the same to the concerned.

(8) Rights and Privileges of Senior Advocates :

(a) The Senior Advocate shall have preferential right of audience in all courts according to his/her seniority as such advocate;

(b) Senior Advocate shall be entitled to wear special robes mean for Senior Advocates;

(c) Senior Advocate shall be entitled to other rights and privileges conferred by the practice of Senior Advocate under the Advocates Act, 1961;

(9) Reconsideration : If an application of an Advocate for designation of Senior Advocate is not favourably considered by Full Court, the said Advocate shall not be allowed to make fresh application for a period of 2 years from a date of such decision of a Full Court; however, after the lapse of 2 years the said Advocate can make a fresh application as per rules for re-consideration.

(10) Repeal and Saving : All previous rules, guidelines, criteria governing designation of an Advocate as a Senior Advocate made by the High Court of Gujarat with all amendments/modifications are hereby repealed; however, this shall not by itself, invalidate the actions taken under the superseded/repeal rules, guidelines, criteria and all those actions are saved under these rules.

HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT SOLA, **BY ORDER**
AHMEDABAD – 380 060. **SANJAY D. SUTHAR,**
DATE: SEPTEMBER 16th, 2025 **REGISTRAR GENERAL**

THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT
(DESIGNATION OF SENIOR ADVOCATES) RULES, 2025

SCHEDULE - I

APPLICATION-CUM-CONSENT LETTER
FOR BEING DESIGNATED AS SENIOR ADVOCATE

			Recent Passport size photograph to be pasted here		
1	Name of the Applicant - Advocate (Mr./Mrs./Ms.)				
2	Father's / Husband's Name				
3	Date of Birth				
4	Age (as on DD/MM/YYYY)				
5	Address in full :	(i) Office Address -			
		(ii) Residential Address -			
6	Contact Details :	(i) Landline No. -			
		(ii) Mobile No. -			
		(iii) Email and Social media accounts, if any			
7	Educational / Professional Qualifications : (Mention award of prize, scholarship, fellowship or any other distinction.)				
8	Date of Enrolment as an Advocate and enrolment number				
9	Bar Council, where registered				
10	Standing as an Advocate as on date of notice inviting application				
11	Whether Member of High Court Bar Association				
12	Place/Courts where practicing : (Court- wise period may be indicated)		Courts	Duration	
				From	To
13	Tribunal(s) where the applicant has specialized practice (Applicable to those practicing before Tribunals)		Tribunal	Duration	
				From	To
14	Nature of practice - Civil, Criminal, Constitutional, Taxation, Labour, Company, Service, etc.				

15	Field of law-domain expertise (such as, Constitutional law, Inter-State Water Disputes, Criminal law, Arbitration law, Corporate law, Family law, Human Rights, Public Interest Litigation, International law, law relating to women) in which the applicant has specialization/ expertise.			
16	Number of reported judgments (excluding orders that do not lay down any principle of law) in the last five years in cases in which the applicant has appeared as - (i) lead arguing counsel; and (ii) assisting counsel		Lead Arguing Counsel (Number of Judgments only)	Assisting Counsel (Number of Judgments only)
17	Number of unreported judgments (excluding orders that do not lay down any principle of law) in the last five years in cases in which the applicant has appeared as - (i) lead arguing counsel; and (ii) assisting counsel		Lead Arguing Counsel (Number of Judgments only)	Assisting Counsel (Number of Judgments only)
18	Details of Pro bono work during last five years			
19	Whether held any position in Bar Council/Bar Association; if so, details thereof.			
20	Whether the Applicant had applied earlier; if so, detailed current status thereof may be indicated.			
21	Whether the Applicant has applied before any other High Court, if so, detailed current status thereof may be indicated.			
22	Whether any FIR has ever been filed against you; if so, detailed current status thereof may be indicated.			
23	Whether party to any civil, criminal or other litigation. If so, the nature of involvement.			
24(i)	(a)	Have you ever been arrested ?		
	(b)	Have you ever been prosecuted ?		
	(c)	Have you ever been kept under detention ?		
	(d)	Is any stricture passed against you by any Court of Law ?		
	(e)	Have you ever been fined by a Court of Law?		
	(f)	Have you ever been convicted by a Court of Law for any Offense ?		
	(g)	Have you ever been debarred from any examination or rusticated by any authority/institution ?		
	(h)	Have you ever been debarred / disqualified by any Public Commission / Authority ?		
	(i)	Is any case pending against you in any Court of Law at the time of filling up this Form ?		
24(ii)	If the answer to any of the above-mentioned question is 'Yes' give full particulars of the case / arrest / detention / fine / stricture / conviction / sentence / punishment etc. and / or the nature of the case pending in the Court / authority or institution etc. at the time of filling up this form.			
25	Whether any proceedings were initiated or are pending against you before the Bar Council of India or the State Bar Council. If so, particulars thereof.			
26	General state of health			
27	Any other information :			

DECLARATION:

I _____ Advocate hereby give consent for being designated as Senior Advocate.

I hereby verify that the information furnished above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. No material is concealed or suppressed therefrom. I understand that furnishing of false information or suppression of any factual information would render me unfit from being designated as Senior Advocate.

Signature of the Applicant

Note : Applicants should read instructions attached herewith while filling up the Application-cum-Consent Letter.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO BE FOLLOWED WHILE FILLING UP

"APPLICATION-CUM-CONSENT LETTER" FOR BEING DESIGNATED

AS SENIOR ADVOCATE

1.	Every Application-cum-Consent Letter, in the prescribed format shall be made in English, typed/printed with font size (Arial-12) in double spacing on one side of the white paper (A4 Size) with an inner margin of about four centimeters width on top and on the left side.
2.	Documents accompanying the Application should be numbered consecutively in the Index, in all sets of Application.
3.	All documents annexed to the Application should be accompanied by an Index containing the details thereof. (The Registry, at any stage, may ask for the supportive documents for verification in the light of the facts mentioned in the Application).
4.	Name of the Applicant should tally with his/her name in his/her as mentioned in his/her enrollment certificate. Abbreviated name shall NOT be accepted.
5.	The Application should be presented in the shape of a Paper Book, duly tagged & indexed and not in spiral binding and the like.
6.	All photocopies of the accolades/testimonials should be legible and true copy of their respective originals.
7.	Required number of sets of the Application in the form of Paper Book, identical in all respects, should be filed.
8.	Passport size photograph (original) should be pasted on each copy of the Application-cum-Consent Letter.
9.	The Application should be accompanied by its soft copy in searchable PDF format in a pen-drive.

PRESCRIBED FORMATS

LEAD ARGUING COUNSEL

(List of Reported Judgments (excluding orders not laying down any principle of law) in the last five years)

Sr. No.	Court(s)	Citation/Case Number	Cause Title and Subject Matter	Decided on

ASSISTING COUNSEL

(List of Reported Judgments (excluding orders not laying down any principle of law) in the last five years)

Sr. No.	Court(s)	Citation/Case Number	Cause Title and Subject Matter	Decided on

LEAD ARGUING COUNSEL

(List of Unreported Judgments (excluding orders not laying down any principle of law) in the last five years)

Sr. No.	Court(s)	Citation/Case Number	Cause Title and Subject Matter	Decided on

ASSISTING COUNSEL

(List of Unreported Judgments (excluding orders not laying down any principle of law) in the last five years)

Sr. No.	Court(s)	Citation/Case Number	Cause Title and Subject Matter	Decided on

List of matters in which you have appeared as Pro-Bono.

Sr. No.	Court(s)	Citation/Case Number	Cause Title	Decided on	Reportable/Unreportable

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Signature Not Verified
Signed by:BHOLUSINGH G THAKUR
Date: 2025.09.18 15:44:18 +05:30
Reason: Validate Document
Location: Government Central Press, Gandhinagar